

REMARKS

Initially, the Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1-11, 13 and 14 are allowed. However, the Examiner rejected claims 15-21, 23-32, 35-40, 44, 45, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirements. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the limitation "said finishing medium being disposed substantially along the entirety (or entirety in claims 15, 25, and 37) of at least one side of said at least one sheet" is not supported in the original disclosure. The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the Examiner's §112 rejection.

Initially, this limitation was added to distinguish over the Block reference. The Block reference specifically teaches "removing the abrasive particles 38 from the support portion 40 of each flap 32." This is illustrated in the Figures where the portion of the flaps furthest from the hub are significantly thicker than the portions closer to the hub. Additionally, the Figures specifically illustrate that the difference in thickness results from the inclusion of abrasive particles on the portion of the sheets away from the hub. Conversely, the Figures of Applicants' invention illustrate the finishing media being of uniform thickness. As such, the finishing media exists along the entire length of the finishing media. Put another way, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand from the Figures alone that the surface characteristics of each sheet of finishing media are the same across its entire length.

The specification further confirms this conclusion. As discussed in paragraph [0030], one embodiment for the finishing media includes sandpaper. As will be clearly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, sandpaper has a side with a finishing media (abrasive particles) disposed along an entire side thereof. Further, in discussing flap wheels in general in paragraph [0003] of the background section, the Applicants confirmed that many rotary finishing devices have abrasive particles disposed on one face thereof. These references in the specification referencing sandpaper as well as the Figures, which illustrate sheets of uniform thickness across the length, teach one of ordinary skill in the art that the finishing media in Applicants' disclosed invention is disposed along an entire side of the finishing sheets (i.e. no special processing of the sheets is required).

Accordingly, there is clear support in the specification (Figures and text) for the objected to limitation, namely that the finishing media is disposed substantially along the entire side of the sheet. Therefore, as one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the disclosure provides support for this limitation the Examiner's section 112 rejections should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

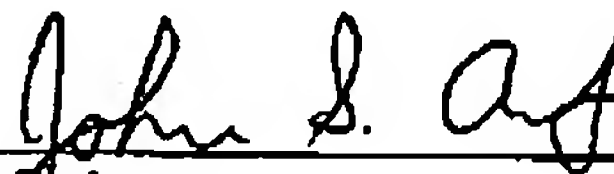
Conclusion:

It is therefore submitted that all objections and rejections of record have been overcome and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is therefore earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner should have any questions, he is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

ARTZ & ARTZ P.C.



John S. Artz
Registration No. 36,431
28333 Telegraph Road, Ste. 250
Southfield, MI 48034
(248) 223-9500

Dated: 3/28/05